

Message Text

SECRET

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07 H-03

L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01

DRC-01 /158 W

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R 161912Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8099

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

S E C R E T BONN 15005

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ETERN, GW, GE, WB, UR

SUBJECT: LUFTHANSA ROLE IN BERLIN AVIATION

REF: (A) STATE 203450; (B) STATE 202110

1. UK EMBASSY MINISTER HIBBERT, WHO PARTICIPATED IN OCTOBER 9 CIVIL AVIATION TALKS IN WASHINGTON, CALLED ON MINISTER OCTOBER 16 TO GIVE HIS ASSESSMENT OF HIS US VISIT. HIS COMMENTS REFLECTED SERIOUS UK DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE US POSITION. HE EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT PANAM AND BEA COULD HOLD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS (PER PARA 6, REF A) VERY SOON SO AS TO SUGGEST SOME POSSIBILITY OF FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE UK TRAFFIC RATIONALIZATION PROPOSAL. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE AIRLINES' REQUEST FOR A 10 PERCENT FARE INCREASE WOULD BE PROCEEDING APACE. THE UK SIDE IS NOW CONSIDERING HOW TO PRESENT THEIR ENTIRE CASE TO THE FRG IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID ANY PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE UK PROPOSAL.

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2. ASKED IF HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY ANY US POSITIONS TAKEN AT THE OCTOBER 9 MEETING (REF B), HIBBERT SAID HE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY THE FLAT US OPPOSITION TO ANY LUFTHANSA PARTICIPATION IN THE IGS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HE THOUGHT THE US POSITION PASSED TO THE UK AND FRENCH IN BONN IN MARCH (ON BASIS OF STATE 37008) HAD BEEN MORE NUANCED IN APPROACH. THE UK HAD BEEN PROCEEDING ON THE BASIS THAT THE US THOUGHT ANY EARLY INVOLVEMENT OF LUFTHANSA IN THE IGS WAS INADVISABLE BUT WAS NOT EXCLUDING IT ENTIRELY OR FOR ALL TIME.

3. HIBBERT SAID HE WAS ALSO SURPRISED BY THE STRONG US OBJECTIONS TO THE ALLIED POLADS' INVOLVING THEMSELVES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS OF THE LUFTHANSA-TEGEL ISSUE. HE HAD NOT REALIZED HOW FIRM THE US VIEW WAS ON THIS POINT. HE ADDED THAT HE HAS SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT THE US POSITION REFLECTED IN WASHINGTON WOULD PROVE PRACTICABLE WHEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ACTUALLY BEGAN.

COMMENT. IN DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES WITH HIBBERT, US MINISTER AND EMBOFFS PRESENT AT THE MEETING ADHERED CLOSELY, AS IN PAST, TO DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS CONTAINED STATE 37008 AND 136795.
HILLENBRAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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